include more specific and defining language regarding a subscription. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

REMARKS

This is a response to an Office Action mailed February 26, 2001 ("Office Action"). The Office Action has been reviewed, and in view of the following amendments and comments, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims pending in the application are respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 6, 11, 14, and 16-20 have been amended. New claims 21-32 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-32 are pending. Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,987,454 issued to Hobbs ("Hobbs").

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 stand rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Hobbs. Applicants respectfully traverse. In an attempt to advance prosecution, however, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 to further clarify Applicants' invention. Independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 have been amended to recite that the subscription identifies information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention. Independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 have also been amended to recite that at least one subscription parameter that indicates a type of information to retrieve is received. Hobbs does not appear to disclose such a system.

Hobbs appears to disclose a system in which a user must input a key each time the user desires to retrieve one or more records from a Data Warehouse or database. Hobbs states at

column 21, lines 21-39 that a table lookup matches the key input by the user with one of a plurality of expert-predetermined optimum values used to retrieve records from the Data Warehouse or database. This causes an embedded application executing on a browser to match a key, corresponding to the selected choice in the table lookup, with a request header with comprising a purpose of the request, a network address for a database network source to which the request header is applied, a file name for an application database network resource, a query argument, and an authentication argument. Hobbs does not appear to enable a user to input multiple parameters for retrieving information at various intervals based on the parameters input into a subscription as claimed. Therefore, Hobbs does not disclose a system that enables information to be searched for and presented to a user at various intervals with additional user intervention as claimed. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons and notice that such effect is earnestly solicited.

Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, and 17-32 depend from at least one of independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16. Therefore, these claims are also allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

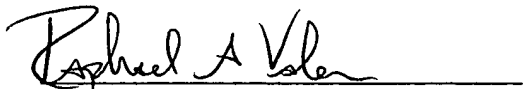
In this Response claims 1, 6, 11, 14, and 16-20 have been amended and claims 21-32 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

It is believed that the fee calculation in connection with filing this Response is correct. In the event that it is determined that the fee calculation is incorrect, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit the undersigned's deposit account number 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS

Dated: April 20, 2001

By: 

Raphael A. Valencia
Registration No. 43,216
for James G. Gatto
Registration No. 32,694

HUNTON & WILLIAMS
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109
Telephone: (202) 955-1500
Facsimile: (202) 778-2201

Attachment A

Claims 1, 6, 11, 14, and 16-20 as amended (marked-up version).

1. (Amended) A system for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

subscription requesting means for enabling [the] a user to request [the] a subscription of at least one non-web document from [the] at least one database, wherein the subscription identifies information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

subscription parameter receiving means for receiving at least one subscription parameter from the user wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

search performing means for performing a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription; and

subscription retrieving means for retrieving the information matching the subscription.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the search performing means performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the search performing means performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising option input means for enabling a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising subscription formula means for enabling the user to request a subscription using a formula.

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6. (Amended) A system for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

a subscription requesting object that enables [the] a user to request [the] a subscription of at least one non-web document from [the] at least one database, wherein the subscription identifies information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

a subscription parameter receiving object that receives at least one subscription parameter from the user, wherein the subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

a search performing object that performs a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription; and

a subscription retrieving object that retrieves the information matching the subscription.

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7. The system of claim 6, wherein the search performing object performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the search performing object performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.

9. The system of claim 6, further comprising an option input object that enables a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

10. The system of claim 6, further comprising a subscription formula receiving object that enables the user to request a subscription using a formula.

11. (Amended) A method for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising the steps of:

requesting a subscription for [the] at least one non-web document from [the] at least one database, wherein the subscription identifies information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

receiving at least one subscription parameter from a user, wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to be retrieved;

performing a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription; and

retrieving the information matching the subscription.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of presenting the information to the user.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of periodically searching the at least one database.

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14. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of periodically searching the at least one database is performed on a random basis.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of periodically searching the at least one database is performed on a periodic basis selected by the user.

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16. (Amended) A [computer usable] processor readable medium having [computer] processor readable code embodied therein for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

subscription requesting [computer] processor readable code for causing a [computer] processor to request [the] a subscription of at least one non-web document from [the] at least one database, wherein the subscription identifies information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

subscription parameter receiving processor readable code for causing a processor to receive at least one subscription parameter from a user wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

search performing [computer] processor readable code for causing a [computer] processor to perform a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription; and

information retrieving [computer] processor readable code for causing a [computer] processor to retrieve the information matching the subscription.

17. (Amended) The medium of claim 16, wherein the search performing [computer] processor readable code performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

18. (Amended) The medium of claim 17, wherein the search performing [computer] processor readable code performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.

19. (Amended) The medium of claim 16, further comprising option input [computer] processor readable code for causing a [computer] processor to enable a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

20. (Amended) The medium of claim 16, further comprising subscription formula [computer] processor readable code means for causing a [computer] processor to enable the user to request a subscription using a formula.

Attachment B

Newly added claims 21-32.

21. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

22. (New) The system of claim 1, further comprising subscription presenting means for presenting the subscription to the user.

23. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the subscription presenting means presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.

24. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

25 (New) The system of claim 6, further comprising subscription presenting means for presenting the subscription to the user.

26. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein in the subscription presenting means presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.

27. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

28. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of presenting the subscription to the user.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the presenting step presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.

30. (New) The medium of claim 16, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

31. (New) The medium of claim 16, further comprising subscription presenting processor readable code for causing a processor to present the subscription to the user.

32. (New) The medium of claim 31, wherein the subscription presenting processor readable code presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.

Attachment C

Clean copy of the currently pending claims.

1. (Amended) A system for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

subscription requesting means for enabling a user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, wherein the subscription identifies information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

subscription parameter receiving means for receiving at least one subscription parameter from the user wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

search performing means for performing a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription; and

subscription retrieving means for retrieving the information matching the subscription.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the search performing means performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the search performing means performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising option input means for enabling a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising subscription formula means for enabling the user to request a subscription using a formula.

6. (Amended) A system for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

a subscription requesting object that enables a user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, wherein the subscription identifies information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

a subscription parameter receiving object that receives at least one subscription parameter from the user, wherein the subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

a search performing object that performs a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription; and

a subscription retrieving object that retrieves the information matching the subscription.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the search performing object performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the search performing object performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.

9. The system of claim 6, further comprising an option input object that enables a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

10. The system of claim 6, further comprising a subscription formula receiving object that enables the user to request a subscription using a formula.

11. (Amended) A method for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising the steps of:

requesting a subscription for at least one non-web document from at least one database, wherein the subscription identifies information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

receiving at least one subscription parameter from a user, wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to be retrieved;

performing a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription; and

retrieving the information matching the subscription.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of presenting the information to the user.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of periodically searching the at least one database.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of periodically searching the at least one database is performed on a random basis.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of periodically searching the at least one database is performed on a periodic basis selected by the user.

16. (Amended) A processor readable medium having processor readable code embodied therein for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

subscription requesting processor readable code for causing a processor to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, wherein the subscription identifies information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

subscription parameter receiving processor readable code for causing a processor to receive at least one subscription parameter from a user wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

search performing processor readable code for causing a processor to perform a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription; and

information retrieving processor readable code for causing a processor to retrieve the information matching the subscription.

17. (Amended) The medium of claim 16, wherein the search performing processor readable code performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

18. (Amended) The medium of claim 17, wherein the search performing processor readable code performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.

19. (Amended) The medium of claim 16, further comprising option input processor readable code for causing a processor to enable a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

20. (Amended) The medium of claim 16, further comprising subscription formula processor readable code means for causing a processor to enable the user to request a subscription using a formula.

21. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

22. (New) The system of claim 1, further comprising subscription presenting means for presenting the subscription to the user.

23. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the subscription presenting means presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.

24. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

25 (New) The system of claim 6, further comprising subscription presenting means for presenting the subscription to the user.

26. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein in the subscription presenting means presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.

27. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

28. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of presenting the subscription to the user.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the presenting step presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.

30. (New) The medium of claim 16, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

31. (New) The medium of claim 16, further comprising subscription presenting processor readable code for causing a processor to present the subscription to the user.

32. (New) The medium of claim 31, wherein the subscription presenting processor readable code presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.